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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/706,601	11/12/2003	Matthew W. Poisson	BA0434C (NORT10-00363)	5855
33000	7590	05/13/2009	EXAMINER	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/706,601	Applicant(s) POISSON ET AL.
	Examiner DUYEN DOAN	Art Unit 2452

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 March 2009.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 21-37 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 21-37 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 12 November 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/06/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/3/09

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 3/3/2009 has been entered. Claims 21-38 are presented for examination. Claim 39 is newly added.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 21-39 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 21-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Panarello et al (us pat 6,289,370) (hereinafter Pana) and Shuman et al (us pat 6,236,644) (hereinafter Shu).

As regarding claim 1, Pana discloses providing a graphical user interface configured to display at least one link for accessing, via the internet, a web-page generated by a web-server associated with a switch (see Pana col.4, lines 11-30, lines 53-64, graphical user interface display URL link of the server, to access information such as configuration, set-up regarding the network switch).

Pana does not specifically disclose the virtual private network function.

Shu teach the virtual private network function (see Shu col.4, lines 55-66).

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Shu to Pana's invention for the purpose of providing the security between entities in the network.

As regarding claim 22, Pana-Shu discloses the link comprises an HTTP (Hyper Text Transfer Protocol) link (see Pana col.4, lines 11-30, lines 53-64).

As regarding claim 23, Pana-Shu discloses a link to a web-page comprising information describing users of the virtual private network functions provided by the switch (see Pana col.4, lines 11-30, lines 53-64, see Shu for VPN).

As regarding claim 24, Pana-Shu discloses a link to a web page comprising information describing packet filters provided by the switch (see Pana col.4, lines 11-30, lines 53-64).

As regarding claim 25, Pana-Shu discloses a link to a web-page comprising information describing access hours of the switch (see Pana col.4, lines 11-30, lines 53-64).

As regarding claim 26, Pana-Shu discloses transmitting an HTTP request when a link is selected by a user (see Pana col.4, lines 11-30, lines 53-64); and accessing a web-page associated with the link in response to the HTTP request, the web-page comprising configuration information related to switch (see Pana col.4, lines 11-30, lines 53-64).

As regarding claim 27, Pana-Shu discloses modifying the configuration information of the switch via the accessed web-page (see Pana col.7, lines 18, modify parameters).

As regarding claim 28, Pana-Shu discloses transmitting an HTTP request when a link is selected by a user (see Pana col.4, lines 11-30, lines 53-64).

As regarding claims 29-39, the limitations of claims 30-37, 39 are similar to limitations of rejected claims 21-28 therefore rejected for the same rationale.

Conclusion

Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner.

In the case of amending the claimed invention, Applicant is respectfully requested to indicate the portion(s) of the specification which dictate(s) the structure relied on for proper interpretation and also to verify and ascertain the metes and bounds of the claimed invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DUYEN DOAN whose telephone number is (571)272-4226. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on 571 272 3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/DUYEN DOAN/

Examiner, Art Unit 2452